



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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RUSH TRANSCRIPT: LIVE INTERVIEW WITH MARVIN SCOTT ON PIX11

Marvin Scott, PIX11: Okay, thank you Corey. Yes, the mayor, this is a military town. We have 225,000 veterans here. What is the city doing to meet their challenges?

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Well, we're very proud of the fact that we're starting the first ever city Department of Veterans Services. We're going to really focus on getting more and more help to our veterans, including the fact that we are committed to ending veterans homelessness this year. And we've taken the pledge that President Obama has asked mayors to take all over the country – we shouldn't have any veterans homeless. We shouldn't have any veterans homeless anywhere in this country and we are going to make sure in this city, by the end of this year, there's no more veteran homelessness.

Scott: You made that pledge at this parade last year. How are you doing to meet that goal?

Mayor: We have had an amazing response from the community. People who are helping us by providing apartments. We've got the resources, both city and federal, to make sure that every veteran has a place to live, but we need people to help us. And anyone who has an apartment that they want to rent to a veteran, they can call 3-1-1 and we're going to make sure that they get that apartment because our veterans deserve a good life when they get back here given all they've done for us.

Scott: They need a home, but also they need a job. What is the city doing helping them to get back to work?

Mayor: We are very proud of the fact that we've helped 2,300 veterans and their spouses, and it's very important that the spouses get jobs as well, we've helped 2,300 get to employment. We're going to keep doing that and that's another place where people can help. Everyday New Yorkers can help. If a veteran comes to you looking for a job, that's someone who's served their country, but it's also someone who brings a lot of skill, a lot of discipline. Hiring a vet is good for everybody.

Scott: Now I know there's a personal feeling this – your father served in World War II in the Pacific. What are your reflections on this day?

Mayor: It's a day that makes me think a lot. My dad served in the Army Seventh Division, was wounded on Okinawa, lost half his leg. And for our family, we saw that every day. We saw that he was carrying both the physical wounds, but also emotionally a lot of weight. It's a reminder – every veteran comes back with a lot. And the war doesn't end for them. They carry those challenges every day thereafter. And our job is to be there for them.

Scott: Thank you for doing just that.

Mayor: Thank you.

Scott: Mayor de Blasio. Enjoy the rest of the march.

Mayor: Thank you. Happy Veterans Day.

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